

## Message Text

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46

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 L-03 IOE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 H-02 OES-03 OMB-01 /118 W

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P 111630Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5681

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJ: FAO: FIRST SESSION OF WORKING PARTY ON COMPOSITION

AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COUNCIL, PROGRAM COMMITTEE,  
FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND  
AND LEGAL MATTERS, ROME, MARCH 3-5, 1976

FODAG

1. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO RECEIVED OVER WEEKEND INVITATION FROM FAO COUNCIL CHAIRMAN INVITING UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN SESSION CITED. SIX DOCUMENTS WERE ENCLOSED PROVIDING REFERENCE MATERIALS FROM PREVIOUS WORK OF FAO CONFERENCE, COUNCILS, AND COMMITTEE. COPIES OF INVITATION AND ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS WERE FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT BY POUCH FEBRUARY 10, ADDRESSED TO PAUL BYRNES, IO/AGR.

2. INVITATIONS WERE SENT TO FOLLOWING OTHER COUNTRIES: ALGERIA, AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FRANCE, GUINEA, INDIA, JAPAN, LEBANON, MEXICO, SAUDI ARABIA, SRI LANKA, SWEDEN AND ZAMBIA. NO INFORMATION COPIES WERE GIVEN TO OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES. COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING APPARENTLY ARE EXPECTED TO KEEP OTHER COUNTRIES OF THEIR REGION INFORMED AND REFLECT THEIR VIEWS AS  
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APPROPRIATE.

3. LETTER OF COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF WORKING PARTY AS WELL, SAYS THAT FIRST SESSION QTE WILL BE DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO DEFINING THE ORDER OF OUR WORK AND THE MANNER IN WHICH WE SHOULD PROCEED UNQTE. IN VIEW OF PRELIMINARY CHARACTER OF THIS MEETING, AND SHORTNESS OF TIME, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDS THAT HE AND HIS DEPUTY BE ACCREDITED.

4. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, IN CAPACITY AS CO-CHIARMAN OF GENEVA GROUP IN ROME, RAISED THIS SESSION IN GENEVA GROUP MEETING FEBRUARY 10 IN CONTEXT OF ITS EFFECT ON INFLUENCE AND CONTROL OF GENEVA GROUP COUNTRIES ON BUDGET AND PROGRAM OF FAO. SO FAR AS WORKING PARTY MANDATE IS CONCERNED, IT SEEMS TO BE BASICALLY RESPONSE TO GROUP 77 PRESSURES FOR EXPANSION OF MEMBERSHIP, REFLECTED IN RESOLUTION 111 OF FAO CONFERENCE OF NOVEMBER 1975, ACTION PARAGRAPH OF WHICH CALLS FOR WORKING PARTY TO ACT IN CONTEXT OF NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND RESTRUCTURING OF UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT QTW ORGANIZATION RESPONDS CONCRETELY TO ASPIRATIONS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO THEIR EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE ORGANIZATION, BEARING IN MIND THE NEED FOR AN EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. UNQTE. MUCH OF ARGUMENT ON THIS ISSUE AT THAT TIME WAS OVERTAKEN BY SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS TO COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND COUNCIL ELECTIONS OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES. MAIN ISSUE TO BE DEALT WITH BY WORKING PARTY NOW APPEARS TO BE SIMPLY DEMANDS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES FOR EXPANDED REPRESENTATION IN COUNCIL, ABOUT WHICH LDC'S IN OTHER REGIONS ARE NOT HIGHLY ENTHUSIASTIC. FAO HAS SYSTEM OF MEMBERSHIP OF PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE UNIQUE IN UN SYSTEM, WITH MEMBERS ELECTED IN PERSONAL CAPACITY BY COUNCIL. THIS MEANS NOT ONLY THAT COUNTRIES CANNOT NAME OR REPLACE INDIVIDUAL, BUT ALSO THAT HE USUALLY ACTS WITHOUT INSTRUCTION BY GOVERNMENT. MEETINGS ARE PRIVATE, AND DOCUMENTS ARE USED THAT ARE NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO MEMBER COUNTRIES. FAO FAVORS ELECTION OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME TO THESE POSTS, PARTLY TO REDUCE EXPENSES OF TRAVEL AND PER DIEM. GOVERNMENTS INSIST, OF COURSE, ON PERMITTING OTHERS TO BE ELECTED. MANY DEPARTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES GAIN ELECTION AS THEY LEAVE TO MAINTAIN TIE WITH OPERATIONS HERE. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION ARE CONFUSED, BUT REPRESENTATIVES OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES USUALLY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP CON-

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SENSUSES WITH THEIR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COLLEAGUES THAT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE IN LARGER MEETINGS. MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVE INTRODUCED PROPOSAL IN RECENT FAO CONFERENCE THAT WOULD REQUIRE MEMBERS OF PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES TO BE FROM AMONG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND TO SERVE AS REPRESENTATIVES TO SOME EXTENT OF REGIONAL GROUPS. HIS IDEAS WERE SET ASIDE BY CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, AND HE WAS DEFEATED IN HIS OWN CAMPAIGN FOR ELECTION TO PROGRAM COMMITTEE. PRESSURE FOR CHANGE IN COM-

POSITION OF PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES WAS DISSIPATED BY  
GREAT REDUCTION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES  
AS A RESULT OF FAO COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER 1975, GREATLY  
WEAKENING DEVELOPED COUNTRY INFLUENCE PARTICULARLY IN FINANCE  
COMMITTEE. IN SUM, BEST POSITION OF U.S. AND OTHER DEVELOPED  
COUNTRIES SEEMS TO BE QUIETLY TO RESIST MUCH CHANGE IN EXISTING  
SYSTEM. INDEPENDENTLY OF WORKING PARTY, WE NEED TO ASSESS  
WHETHER COMMITTEE SYSTEM IS WORKING AT ALL EFFECTIVELY IN  
TERMS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY INFLUENCE, AND PERHAPS TRY TO  
DEVISE ALTERNATIVE MEASURES. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ROME02298  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760052-0228  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760259/aaaabzvl.tel  
**Line Count:** 125  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FAO: FIRST SESSION OF WORKING PARTY ON COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COUNCIL, PROGRAM COMMITTEE  
**TAGS:** OCON, FAO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006